

**Human Right Commission
June 28, 2006 Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Randy Cole, Marie Glaze, Glenn Glasgow, Mark Thomas, Valeta Snell

Members Excused: Noel English

Members Absent: Lawrence Morganfield III

Staff Present: Steve Hollis, Nanette Ward, Fred Boeckmann, Shawna Victor

- I. **Call to Order/Introductions:** Glaze called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
- II. **Approval of Agenda:** Glasgow made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Cole and passed unanimously.
- III. **Approval of 5/24/06 Meeting Minutes:** Thomas made a motion to approve the May 24, 2006 minutes. The motion was seconded by Glasgow and passed unanimously.
- IV. **Old Business**
 - A. **Discussion of current relations with Islamic community** – Thomas handed out a flyer regarding ICCM's Open House on Saturday July 8 from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- V. **Staff Reports**
 - A. **Community Services:** Hollis said there was an article in the Tribune about Gay Pride Fest. Gay Pride Fest receives HREP funding. The Health Department always has a table at the Fest for HIV education. This year, HRC was able to share space with the Health Department.

Hollis said he has been in contact with a William Woods University professor about possibly bringing a Nobel Peace Lauriat to the community. This would be in conjunction with Peace Jam, which is targeted to youth. The professor was hoping for a sponsorship from the HRC. Hollis has encouraged him to apply for HREP funding but explained that funding was limited

Hollis said that he has contacted Services for Independent Living numerous times about the FY2005 HREP Final Report. No report has been received to date.

Staff and HRC have been invited to the ribbon cutting for Para-Transit.

Hollis said staff mailed a certified letter to Lawrence Morganfield regarding his status with the commission. The letter was returned as unclaimed. Staff will draft a letter to be signed by Glaze to be sent to the Mayor regarding this issue.
 - B. **Law Department:** No report at this time.
 - C. **Investigator/Community Educator:** Ward handed out articles from Missourian and Tribune about Teen Speak, Race Unity Day, the internal review of the incident at the mall in May, and two articles about people who are involved with the study circles and activities they have participated in.

Ward gave the following study circle report:

- Live radio interview on 93.9 The Eagle Evening Show with Mike Martin along with “diversity consultant”.
- Race Unity Day
- Pepper and Friends Show interview for TEEN SPEAK!
- Presentation at Lincoln University to 17 graduate counseling students in Group Procedures class on study circle model of group facilitation.
- Presentation to 16 members and invitees of Cultural Competency Council of Fulton State Hospital and the Fulton Human Rights Commission. The Fulton HRC is interested in starting a community study circles program.
- Daniel Boone Library One Read Coordinators meeting for collaboration of September 25, 2006 Community Circle “The American Dream – A Closer Look Through Citizen Dialogue”.
- KFRU radio interview with David Lile on the Morning Show
- TEEN SPEAK! Community Circle “Youth in Action – Social Justice Yesterday, Today and Hope for Tomorrow”. Attended by about 45 people including 20 new participants. There was a wide range of ages.
- Invitation from U.S. Department of Justice Race Relations Bill Whitcomb to collaborate in Community Dialogues on Race in Fall 2006.

VI. **New Business** – Glaze said she would like the Commission to look into the incident that happened at the mall and how the police department handled the review. She and Thomas were disappointed with the outcome of the review done by the CPD. They both believe there is a problem in the CPD.

Glaze said the idea of a citizen’s review board for the CPD has been tossed around by the community and this commission. She has been told by Chief Boehm that CPD review boards are more stringent than citizen review boards. After this incident she does not believe this.

Thomas said the incident at the mall involved 100-200 young people and all available CPD officers were called to the scene (approximately 20 officers). Chief Boehm said there were 40 people interviewed during the review. This review has not been made public. Other facts that have not been put in the press are that Mrs. Scott, the woman arrested in this incident, is only 5’ tall and weighs approximately 100 lbs. Mrs. Scott was told by mall security that she could go retrieve her child. Thomas believes the officers on the scene did not make the best decision and questions whether race played a roll in Mrs. Scott’s arrest.

Thomas asked if this was an open record. Boeckmann said he did not think this was an open record and believes it is closed pursuant to 610.021(3) RSMo.

Glasgow asked if anyone knows the age or experience of the arresting officer. No one knew this information.

Snell said she believes it is odd that the attention of the officers was turned to Mrs. Scott and not on the fight. She asked if it was possible to have Bill Whitcomb and his office be involved with this. Glaze said that he was at the meeting a few months ago.

Glaze said she is disturbed by this incident and the outcome. She does not believe the action, or lack there of, is the answer to this situation.

There are periodically disturbances at the mall and some of those are large disturbances like the one that happened earlier this year.

She does not know if anyone that was involved in the disturbance was detained.

Glaze was also upset after reading the letter to the editor in the Tribune written by the assistant prosecuting attorney in which she basically supported the decision made by CPD.

Snell agreed HRC should try to get a copy of the report.

Glaze said staff will draft a letter to CPD requesting a copy of the letter.

Ward said she was discussing this incident with someone and they said there should be some sort of procedure for the parent to retrieve their child and protect the safety of other children.

She has also offered study circle to CPD for another means of education.

Thomas suggested having the report be a topic at a study circle. Glaze said this would not be a good idea as she believes nothing would be accomplished.

Glaze does not want to prevent law enforcement from doing their job but wants them to be more aware of different situations. She believes CPD needs a different diversity trainer and for the training to be done more often.

Ward suggested inviting Chief Boehm to the next HRC meeting to discuss the mall incident, the review of the incident and a possible citizen review board.

All commissioners agreed to pursue this issue.

Glasgow suggested receiving a copy of the report done by mall security.

Hollis said there have been discussions about youth not having positive activities. He noted Boys and Girls Club is running activities at the mall.

VII. **Public Comment** – There was no public comment.

VIII. **Commissioner Comment** – Hollis asked if the commissioners had considered the issue of moving the meeting days and location. The commission had considered this issue.

Cole made a motion to move the HRC monthly meetings to the first Tuesday of the month and the location of the meetings will be in Conference Room 1 starting the first Tuesday in August. The motion was seconded by Glasgow and passed unanimously.

Cole made a motion to send a letter to Columbia Police Department requesting a copy of the review done regarding the incident at the mall and a copy of the report from mall security. The motion was seconded by Thomas and passed unanimously.

Snell suggested making a direct request to have a study circle for CPD staff. Cole suggested offering the opportunity to CPD staff to attend a study circle about diversity. Glaze agreed with Cole.

Glaze noted she will be attending the IOHRA conference September 12-15 in Atlantic City, NJ.

- IX. **Closed Session to Discuss Pending Cases Pursuant to Section 610.021 (1)** – Thomas made a motion to move to closed session to discuss pending cases pursuant to Section 610.021 (1) RSMo. The motion was seconded by Snell and a roll call vote was taken. Cole called the roll with the following vote: Cole – Yes, Glaze – Yes, Snell – Yes, Thomas – Yes, Glasgow – Yes.

The Commission went back into open session.

Ward requested the Commission review the documents for the complaint/response packets.

- X. **Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Hollis, Manager
Office of Community Services